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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

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House Bill 4208 (As Passed House)

Topic: Deaf Person Interpreters
Sponsor: Representative Spade
Co-sponsors: Representatives Miller, Clemente, LeBlanc, Coulouris, and Leland
Committee: House Regulatory Reform
Senate Judiciary

Date Introduced: February 7, 2007

Date of Summary: March 16, 2007

The bill amends the Deaf Persons' Interpreters Act to make the scope of Michigan's law comparable to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Qualified interpreters would now be required in all circumstances enumerated in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Interpreters may be qualified in several ways under the bill.

- Certification by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf;
- Certification by any other national organization recognized by the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
- Certification through the state by the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing with advice from the Michigan Deaf Association and the Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or their successor agencies.

The Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing would be granted authority to promulgate rules by the bill. The division would be required to consult with the Michigan Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf and the Michigan Deaf Association in doing so.

A person who knows that he or she does not meet the definition of qualified interpreter and misrepresents that fact would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000, or both. An appointing authority other than a court that violates the bill's provisions would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000. An applicant for certification as a qualified interpreter by the Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing or a qualified interpreter certified through the division is subject to rejection of the application for certification or revocation, suspension, or limitation of his or her certification.